



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Conducted via Zoom

In attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore; Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden).
Guests: Ash

1. Review Agenda & Introduce Guests
2. Action Items & Minutes
3. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim) – 7:55 10 minutes +10 minutes discussion following
 - Tree Bylaw Activity
 - 24 Mystic Lake Drive: John Carney (Marquis submitted plan) no trees to be removed on site. 8 trees in the setback going to be protected. 3 trees in the public way. Neighbor's tree canopy hangs over the property and they asked to protect the root zone of this tree and contractor agreed to do so. Tim is keeping a close eye on the tree protection, as equipment is moved on site.
 - 64 Woodside (Andrew Burns of Dabarko Properties, with Marquis doing tree plan) 2 trees protected, two oaks (one is 34" DBH), considering removal of the 34" DBH tree as building plan is now looking in the way. **Action Keith** will reach out to builder to see if there is a potential to adjust plan to keep tree. Susan suggested perhaps we offer to pay to prune the large Oak and it is saved. **Action Keith** will ask Town Counsel.
 - Tree Hearings -- none.
 - Town Projects Involving Trees -- MWRA work is going to continue on Pleasant Street (2023, 2024), Summer Street (2025, 2026), Park Ave. (2026), and Sylvia Street (2027; no underground water system in this neighborhood, therefore blasting may be required, disturbing trees and infrastructure).
 - Tree Maintenance Activities -- pruning trees will finish by the end of August, with some tree removal at that time. Northeastern Tree Service injecting EAB treatment, covering 6,000 DBH inches. Ash trees make up 10% of the Town's tree canopy.
 - Other Tree Dept. News -- none.
 - ATC subcommittee QR code -- **Action Susan** will work with Tim for stickers and they can be adhered to current signage.
4. Tree-related Interactions with the Town
 - MBTA Communities -- a tree-related group, Green Streets Arlington (www.greenstreetsarlington.org) has been formed to advocate to get trees and green space as a part of the impending zoning changes. To date, the MBTA Communities Working Group has agreed to the proposed 15' foot setback within the MBTA communities. Tree Warden expressed his satisfaction with the ability to integrate/incorporate trees and buildings together.
 - i. Will the Tree Committee endorse the 6-point plan Green Streets Arlington proposed to the ARB in their July 20th letter? **Vote: 4/7, with 3 absent. Passed**
 - Con Comm -- Artificial Turf meeting: renewal of AHS plan for turf is due. At the time it was originally drafted, it was not known that a PFAS chemical was a component in artificial turf. They are only renewing the artificial turf contract for one more year. The School Committee will be ordering the turf equipment in 2024; meeting members asked School Committee to go back to investigate the chemical issue before the expiration of the one-year renewal.
 - ARB -- two meetings re: MBTA Communities planning.

- ZBA -- 10 Sunnyside Ave. (a “friendly” 40B affordable housing project) public hearing will soon close; trees and green spaces are significantly included in the renovation of this former industrial site.
- Planning and Community Development – Green Streets Arlington has been talking re: MBTA Communities.
- Back of Sidewalk Initiative -- no action.
- Inspectional Services -- Jim Feeney has been contacted. Article 16 (2023) Affidavit regarding a Tree Plan is at the Building Department; to date, individual contractors are bringing their own affidavit. Building Dept. is planning to digitize the process.
- Rec. Dept -- watering trees at Hurd Field. **Action Susan** is going to go look at the trees.
- Purchasing/Contracts Department -- Mary Ellen DeNatale is the Purchasing Manager; would be the contact for enforcing the addition to all appropriate contracts a two-year watering in the plan. **Action Keith** calling ME DeNatale about two-year watering requirement.

5. Publicity/Community Outreach

- Adopt-A-Tree Program -- no new activity.
- Community Canopy Program -- 1 oak sold, 1 elm sold. 2 elms at Water Tower; and Gardner Street by Blue Bikes. **Action Mary Ellen** will follow up with Tim after 1 week.
- Town Day (23 September) theme / volunteers - Mary Ellen, Steve can attend, Susan and Keith cannot attend.

6. Administrative

- Swearing in, member status updates on Town website -- completed.
- ATC monthly calendar and agendas -- populated through April of 2024.
- Roles and Responsibilities -- review current.
- September Meeting -- members out of town (2) and Town Day Prep: Mary Ellen has materials, Steve has registered.

7. New Business

- Tree Management Plan -- (Keith, Mara, Mary Ellen agreed to be on subcommittee to scope). **Action Keith** will call a meeting.
- Bylaw Plan -- (Susan, Mary Ellen, **Action Susan** will review and combine bylaw ideas list to be presented in October, bring revised in November, final draft in December. Town Meeting Warrant Article would be due January.

8. Review New Actions.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2023